

CHARD RURAL DISTRICT

-- in the --

COUNTY OF SOMERSET.ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDED31ST DECEMBER, 1943.TO: THE CHARD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present a short Report on the Sanitary Conditions of the Chard Rural District for the Year ended 31st December, 1943.

The fourth year of War saw the population of the district still fully employed on it's various efforts to ensure Victory, and although a policy of deferment has necessarily to be adopted with regard to many sanitary matters, the health of the area as a whole has remained good, with no noteworthy outbreak of Infectious Disease to report.

There were again no cases of Diphtheria notified in the district during 1943. This is now the second year in which we have been free from this disease in spite of considerable changes in the child and adult population during the war period.

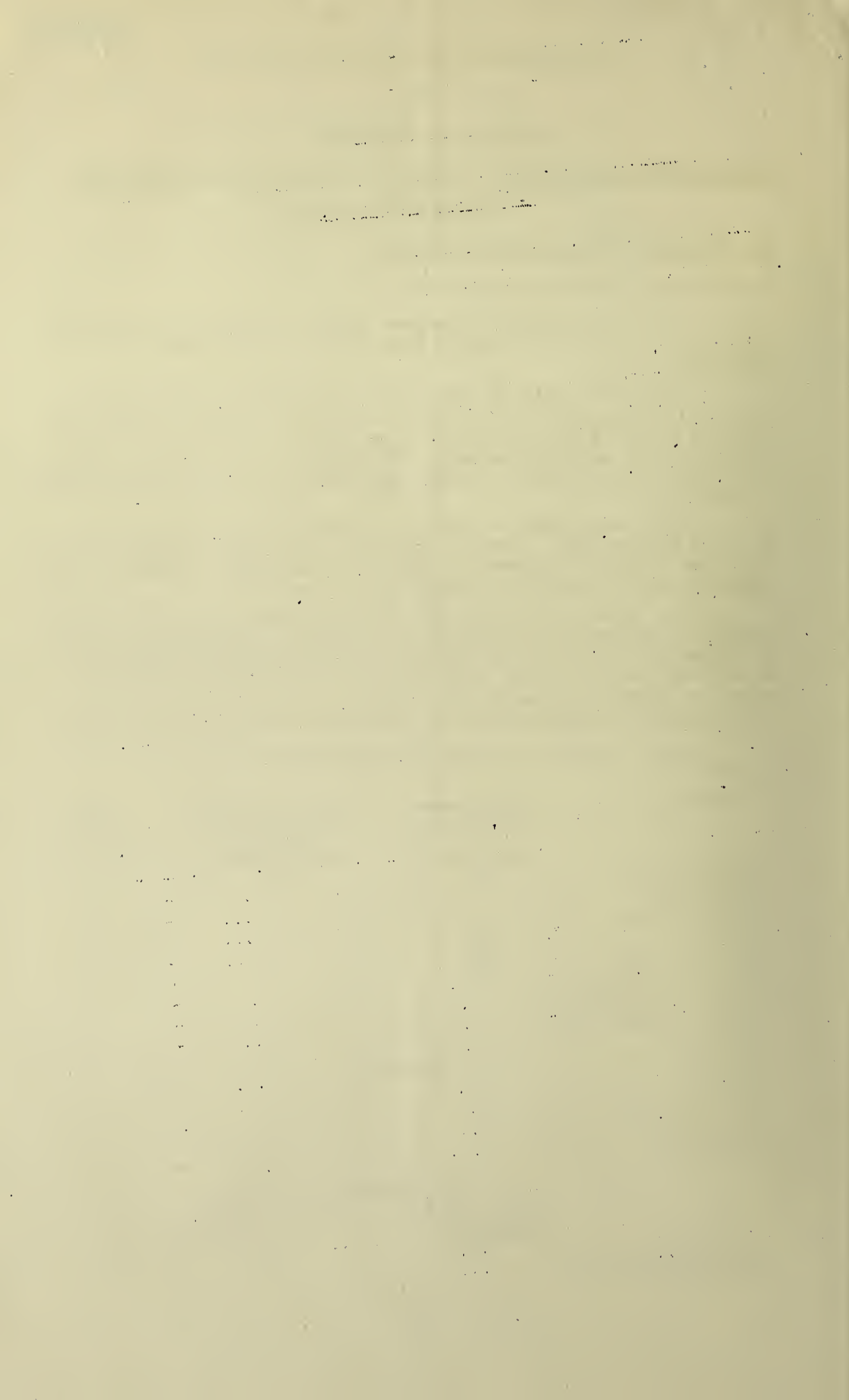
The number of new cases of Tuberculosis notified is about average. Efficient segregation of infectious cases of this disease is, however, frequently an insoluble difficulty and one which in my opinion should receive early and most thorough consideration among our post-war problems, for without it no real progress will ever be made in stamping out this insidious and dangerous disease.

List of Cases of Infectious Diseases notified in the area in 1943 -

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total cases notified.</u>	<u>Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital.</u>	<u>Total Deaths.</u>
Scarlet Fever ...	24	15	-
Diphtheria ...	-	-	-
Enteric Fever ...	-	-	-
Measles ...	176	2	-
Whooping cough ...	10	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever	-	-	-
Dysentery ...	2	-	-
Malaria ...	1 (Military)	1	-
Pneumonia ...	15	-	9
Polomyelitis ...	-	-	-
Chicken-pox ...	26	-	-
Erysipelas ...	1	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS.

	<u>Total cases notified.</u>	<u>Total Deaths.</u>
Respiratory ...	11	1
Non-Respiratory ...	6	6



HOSPITAL SERVICES.

These remain unaltered. The Sick Bay at Chaffcombe remained open to receive light cases of illness among evacuated children and was also used for treatment of Scabies and contagious skin conditions amongst resident children in the area.

BIRTHS.

Live Births.

		<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate	...	89	84
Illegitimate	...	6	-
		<u>95</u>	<u>84</u>

Stillbirths.

Legitimate	...	1	5
Illegitimate	...	1	-
		<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>

Deaths of Infants under one year - Total 11.

Under 1 week	...	6
1 - 4 weeks	...	1
1 - 6 months	...	Nil.
6 - 12 "	...	4

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES.

<u>Cause of Death.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Respiratory Tuberculosis	1	-
Other forms of Do.	2	4
Syphilitic Diseases	1	-
Influenza	3	4
Cancer	7	14
Intercranial Vascular Lesions	9	7
Heart Disease	18	14
Other Circulatory Diseases	3	4
Bronchitis	4	3
Pneumonia	4	5
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	-
Stomach Ulcer	1	-
Appendicitis	1	-
Digestive Disorders	3	2
Nephritis	2	-
Maternal Causes	-	1
Premature Birth	3	1
Congenital Malformation, &c.	2	2
Suicide	1	-
Road Traffic	1	-
All other causes	7	15
	<u>74</u>	<u>76</u>

WATER SUPPLIES.

Works for augmenting the Council's Regional Water Scheme Supply were completed at the end of the year and the supply is now adequate for the area served, comprising the northern half of the District. No work of any importance has been carried out on the Council's smaller schemes.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

No major changes have been made during the year. Maintenance work has often been carried out under difficulty owing to labour shortage, but the various outfall works are on the whole in fairly good working condition.



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HOUSING.

The erection of four houses for agricultural workers was commenced in Donyatt parish during the year. The housing shortage is still acute and it has been necessary to allow a number of unfit cottages to be re-occupied for the emergency. No cases of serious overcrowding has been found during the year, but the accommodation in many cases is very limited.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

This remains much the same as in my last year's report. The labour situation has not improved.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,
Yours faithfully,

(sd) C. C. COURT M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health,
Chard Rural District.

21st August, 1944.

